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Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3. (Cancelled)

4.   (Currently Amended) A security system comprising:

a verifier apparatus for determining an authorization to process protected material to facilitate an assessment by the verifier apparatus of the physical proximity of the source of a response, based on an assessment of actual response times associated with one or more responses received from an unknown second source to one or more requests issued from a first source to the unknown second source,

a timer apparatus operably coupled to the verifier apparatus for measuring response times between a request for content from a first source and a response from the unknown second source associated with the one or more responses to the one or more requests,

a storage medium for storing the actual response times for limiting subsequent access of the unauthorized users or notifying an external source of the unauthorized users

wherein each of the one or more requests issued from the first source comprise a request for access to randomly selected source information from the unknown second source,

wherein the assessment of the one or more responses performed by the verifier comprises: continuously requesting randomly selected source information from the unknown source unit a statistically [[significant]] observable difference from the expected response time of a local source is detected.

5.   (Currently Amended) A security apparatus system comprising:

a verifier apparatus for determining an authorization to process protected material to facilitate an assessment by the verifier apparatus of the physical proximity of the source of a response, based on an assessment of actual response times associated with one or more responses received from an unknown second source to one or more requests issued from a first source to the unknown second source,

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a timer apparatus operably coupled to the verifier apparatus for measuring response times between a request for content from a first source and a response from the unknown second source associated with the one or more responses to the one or more requests,

a storage medium for storing the actual response times for limiting subsequent access of the unauthorized users or notifying an external source of the unauthorized users,

wherein each of the one or more requests issued from the first source comprise a request for access to randomly selected source information from the unknown second source,

wherein the assessment of the response times forms an assessment of whether the one or more responses were communicated locally to the verifier or via a network connection; and

wherein the assessment of the one or more responses performed by the verifier comprises: continuously requesting randomly selected source information from the unknown source unit a statistically [[significant]] observable difference from the expected response time of a local source is detected, and

wherein the one or more responses are stored for limiting subsequent access of the unauthorized users or notifying an external source of the unauthorized users.

6.   (Currently Amended) A security system comprising:

a verifier apparatus for determining an authorization to process protected material to facilitate an assessment by the verifier apparatus of the physical proximity of the source of a response, based on an assessment of actual response times associated with one or more responses received from an unknown second source to one or more requests issued from a first source to the unknown second source,

a timer apparatus operably coupled to the verifier apparatus for measuring response times between a request for content from a first source and a response from the unknown second source associated with the one or more responses to the one or more requests,

a storage medium for storing the actual response times for limiting subsequent access of the unauthorized users or notifying an external source of the unauthorized users,

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wherein the assessment of the response times forms an assessment of whether the one or more responses were immediately available, or whether the one or more responses were a result of a determination; and

wherein the assessment of the one or more responses performed by the verifier comprises: continuously requesting randomly selected source information from the unknown source unit a statistically [[significant]] observable difference from the expected response time of a local source is detected.

7.   (Currently Amended) A processing system comprising:

a renderer for receiving a plurality of data items corresponding to a data set, and for producing therefrom a rendering corresponding to a select data item;

a verifier apparatus for determining an authorization to process protected material to facilitate an assessment by the verifier apparatus of the physical proximity of the source of a response, based on an assessment of actual response times associated with one or more responses received from an unknown second source to one or more requests issued from a first source to the unknown second source,

a storage medium for storing the actual response times for limiting subsequent access of the unauthorized users or notifying an external source of the unauthorized users,

the renderer being configured to preclude the rendering corresponding to the select data item in dependence upon whether other data items of the plurality of data items are available to the renderer; and

a timer apparatus operably coupled to the verifier apparatus for measuring response times between a request for content from a first source and a response from the unknown second source associated with the one or more responses to the one or more requests,

wherein the verifier apparatus precludes the rendering based at least in part on an assessment of the response times; and

wherein the assessment of the one or more responses performed by the verifier comprises: continuously requesting randomly selected source information from the unknown source unit a statistically [[significant]] observable difference from the expected response time of a local source is detected.

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8.   (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 7, wherein

the assessment of the response times corresponds to determination of whether the

other data items are located in physical proximity to the renderer.

9.   (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 7, wherein

the verifier is configured to form the assessment based on at least one of:

an average of the response times,

a comparison of the response times to one or more

threshold times, and

a statistical test based on the response times.

10.   (Previously Presented) The processing system of claim 7, wherein

the verifier is configured to randomly select the other data items.

Claims 11-13. (Cancelled)